

TOP 5 Weather Events of 2022

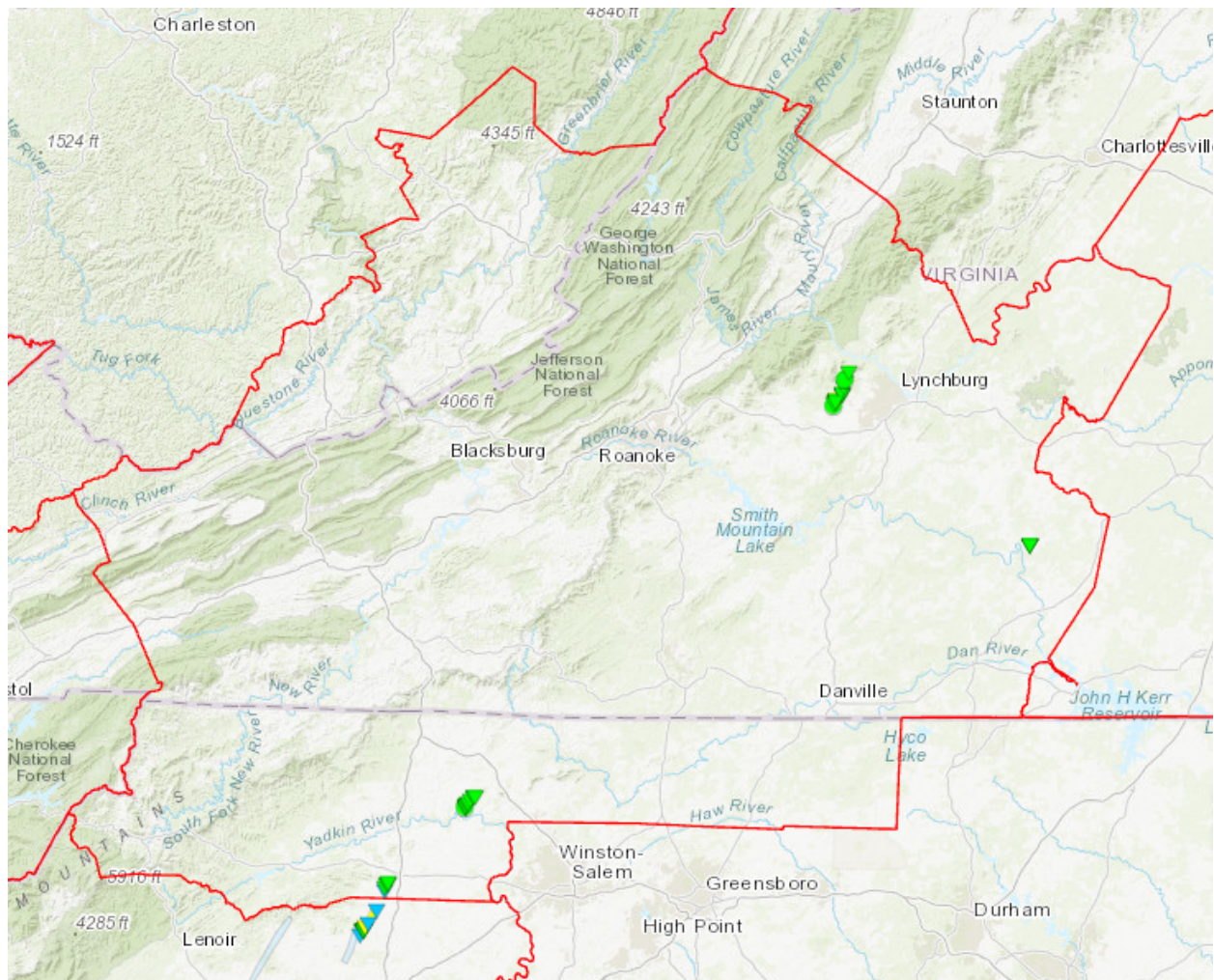
1. Remnants of Ian bring damaging winds resulting in one fatality



Source: Chatham Star-Tribune

Numerous trees were blown down across the foothills and Piedmont of North Carolina and the Virginia Piedmont as the remains of Ian moved across our region. Tens of thousands of people were temporarily without power. In Pittsylvania county, 42% of customers were without power at the peak of the event. In Campbell County, One tree fell on a car while it was traveling along the 2200 block of Bishop Creek Road, causing the car to run off the road, and the driver was killed. Four families were displaced in Lynchburg when trees fell on homes and an apartment. In Halifax county, four residences were damaged from down trees, including one family that was displaced.

2. May 26-27, 2022 Tornadoes



From the evening of May 26th to the morning of May 27th, four known tornadoes touched down in the NWS Blacksburg forecast area.

The first tornado developed at 7:13 PM on May 26th in Yadkin County. This EF1 tornado had maximum winds estimated to be 95 mph with a path length of 1.5 miles. The tornado touched down in a small wooded area just west of Howards Branch Road and proceeded north-northeast until lifting along Redbud Lane. Almost all direct damage consisted of numerous mature trees either snapped or uprooted, although one shed was also destroyed.

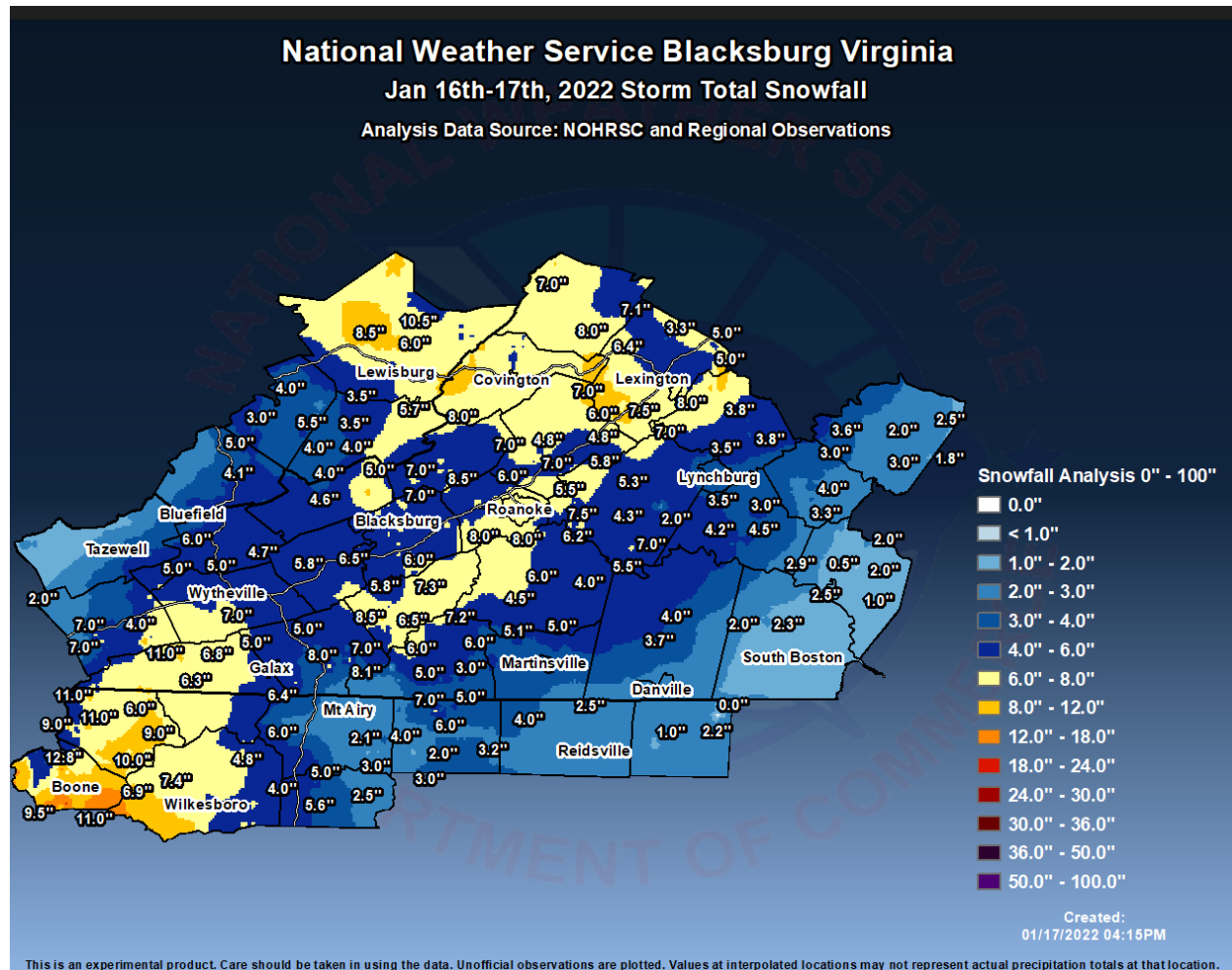
The second tornado touched down in Surry County at 11:03 PM on May 26th. This EF-1 tornado also had maximum winds around 95 mph and touchdown 2.1 miles west northwest of Siloam. The tornado was on the ground for approximately

2.8 miles with a path width of 100 yards. Numerous hardwood and softwood trees were either snapped or uprooted along the path of the tornado. No homes were damaged nor were there any injuries. The tornado lifted in a wooded area a couple hundred yards from Stanford Church Road.

The third tornado of this event was the most destructive. During the morning of May 27th, a high end EF2 tornado with maximum winds of 135 mph touchdown 0.4 miles southeast of Norwood before heading north northeast toward U.S Highway 221. The tornado crossed Bethany Church Road and Langford Lane where two mobile homes were destroyed. The tornado then continued northeast snapping and uprooting trees just west of the Ivy Hill Golf Course. Additional tree damage was noted on the western slopes of Fleming Mountain along Rocky Mountain Road. In total, 15 homes were damaged along with 35 structures including sheds, outbuildings, and garages. Three injuries were reported with zero fatalities. The length of the tornado track was estimated at 6.25 miles, and the maximum width was approximately 330 yards.

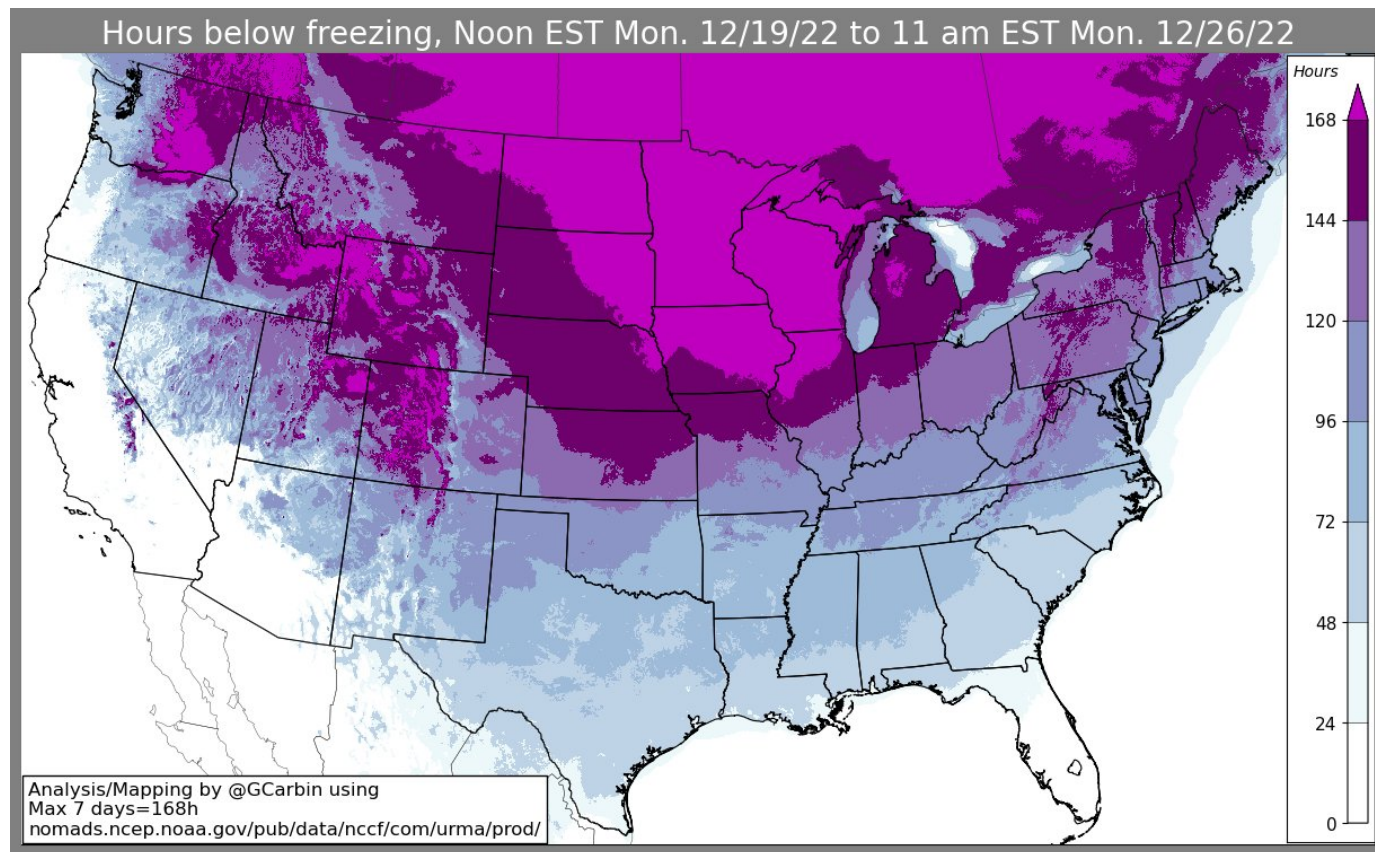
The final tornado for this event in the NWS Blacksburg forecast area briefly touched down in Charlotte County on the morning of May 27th. This EF-1 tornado with maximum wind gusts around 95 mph, briefly touched down and primarily affected one private residence along Green View Road. Significant roof damage along with glass doors and windows were broken on the home. A few trees and power lines were also damaged along Green View Road before the tornado lifted.

3. Jan 16-17 Winter Storm



A wintry mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain resulted in several accidents and thousands of power outages. 3-10" of snow and sleet were common from northwest NC to the Greenbrier Valley and Alleghany Highlands. After the precipitation ceased, powerful northwest winds brought down several trees across northwest North Carolina and southwest Virginia. In Carroll County, two cars were struck by falling trees on Interstate 77 near exit 14. A peak wind gust of 68 MPH was measured at Boone, and a 75 MPH wind gust was measured at a personal weather station in Blowing Rock, NC.

4. Record cold temperatures December 23 - December 26 2022



A powerful Arctic blast of bitterly cold air impacted two-thirds of the continental U.S. over the Christmas Holiday weekend, including the entire Blacksburg forecast area. In addition to record cold, strong winds produced widespread wind damage knocking out power to over 50,000 AEP customers, leaving some people without the ability to heat their homes. Dangerous wind chills were observed with readings ranging from 15 below zero in the piedmont, to as much as 40 below zero in the mountains.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Coldest Temperature</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Coldest Since</u>
Blacksburg	-4	12/24	2/21/2015 (-5)
Roanoke	3	12/14	2/20/2015 (0)
Lynchburg	4	12/24	1/7/2018 (-2)
Bluefield	-9	12/23-24	2/5/1996 (-9)
Danville	6	12/25	1/3/2018 (5)

5. July 12th, 2022 Tazewell County Flash Flood

Homes thrown and crushed by the powerful floodwaters in the Bandy area of Tazewell County. 14 people and 7 pets were displaced in the community due to flooding. Photo via Barry Brooks, Tazewell County Emergency Management.



Numerous homes and public buildings flooded by anywhere from 6 inches to 2 feet of water from Indian Creek as it flooded out of its banks within the community of Bandy. At least 14 residents in the area were evacuated to shelters, however no injuries were reported.

More details about this event can be found here:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fcb54c51bde7480da7f065844626c62b>